[4th November 1935

The Hon. Mr. C. A. Souter:—"The matter is not an easy one, and must be very carefully considered."

Rao Sahib V. I. Muniswami Pillai:—"May I ask whether the Public Service Commission has been consulted in this matter, and what its opinion is?"

The Hon. Mr. C. A. Souter:—"Notice, Sir."

Control of Dramatic Performances

Order under section 144, Criminal Procedure Code, on the Gadag Dattatriya Nataka Company, prohibiting the staging of a drama entitled 'Bhagavan Yesukrista.'

* 431 *Q.*—Mr. U. C. Subrahmanya Bhatt: Will the Hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Gadag Dattatriya Nataka Company, which is now staging dramas in Kanarese in Mangalore, petitioned to the Government and the Collector of South Kanara against an order under section 144 of the Criminal Procedure Code passed by the Subdivisional Magistrate against them restraining them from playing a drama entitled 'Bhagavan Yesukrista'; and

(*b*) what action the Government have taken or propose to take in the matter and whether the Government will be pleased to place on the table a copy of the order, if any, passed on the subject?

A.—(*a*) No petition in the matter was received by the Government. It is understood that the Manager of the Company has made representations to the District Magistrate.

(*b*) The Government propose to take no action.

Mr. U. C. Subrahmanya Bhatt:—"May I know whether it is the idea of the Government that Hindu dramatic companies should not play dramas based on Christian sacred history?"

The Hon. Rao Bahadur A. T. Pannirselvam:—"The matter has not yet come at all to the Government, and therefore the question as to what the Government think about it does not arise."

Mr. U. C. Subrahmanya Bhatt:—"May I know on what grounds this order was passed; whether the officer concerned ever cared to send for a copy of the drama in order to see if it contained any objectionable matter?"

The Hon. Rao Bahadur A. T. Pannirselvam:—"The answer says the Government have no information at all about it. Further, I may point out that any order under section 144 is a judicial order, and the person aggrieved has always got a statutory remedy of taking the matter to the highest judicial authorities."